

Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
Serial No. 10/784,238
Sughrue Ref: Q79969

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 are all the claims pending in the application. By way of this Amendment, Applicants have amended the title and the specification and have amended claims 1-12 and 14 and canceled claim 16.

It is believed that the above amendments overcome the items in paragraph numbers 1-4 of the Office Action.

Turning to the substance of the Office Action, claims 1 and 7-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Goch (U.S. Patent No. 5,637,827). Claims 2 and 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Goch in view of Bottoms, Jr., et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,240,926). Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Goch in view of Perry, et al. (3,485,940). Still further, claims 5 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Goch in view of Hoefner, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,507,692). Claims 10-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Goch in view of Bonicel, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,035,087); and claims 13-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Goch in view of Fox, Jr. (U.S. Patent No. 4,610,033). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections for the following reasons.

Beginning with the rejection of claim 1, Goch discloses (*See*, Figs. 6 and 7) a central support rod 120 of fiber glass material, having a longitudinally extending groove 122. A plastic tube 168 is located in the groove 122 and the space between the plastic tube 168 and the weathersheds 164, which surrounds the rod 120, is filled with a silicone dielectric compound

172. A cable 170 is provided within the plastic tube 168 and spaces between the cable 170 and tube 168 is filled with silicone dielectric compound 172 (*See*, column 7, lines 14-25).

Thus, the structure according to Goch has an additional plastic tube between the optical fiber cable 170 and the rod 120. In contrast, according to the present invention, the optical fiber cable (2) is situated *directly* in the groove or slot (10) of the dielectric rod (1) wherein the dielectric material (8) fills the slot (10) and holds the cable (2) without stress in the slot (10) (*See*, Figure 2 of the present application). Applicants have amended claim 1 to more specifically recite this feature of the invention. Specifically, claim 1 has been amended to recite that the dielectric material in the slot contacts the cable and the inner surfaces of the slot, which is clearly not taught or suggested by Goch. In short, the present invention relates to a fundamentally less complicated structure than Goch. Thus, it is submitted that claim 1 patentably distinguishes over Goch.

With respect to the dependent claims, Applicants submit that none of the secondary references compensate for the above deficiency of Goch. Thus, the dependent claims are likewise allowable.

With specific reference to claims 2 and 3, the Examiner is of the opinion that claims 2 and 3 are not inventive over Goch in view of Bottoms, Jr., et al. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

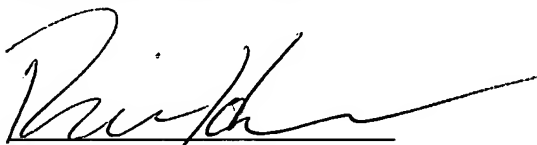
The Examiner states that the structure according to present claim 1 is the same as the structure of Goch and that Bottoms, Jr., et al. disclose a rod having slots which is deeper than it is wide. However, since the structure of Goch is not the same as the structure, according to the present invention, the rejection of claims 2 and 3 must fail.

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In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

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